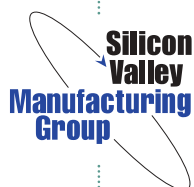




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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COALITION CHALLENGES EMPLOYERS TO JOIN 2ND ANNUAL “Bay Area Best Workplaces for CommutersSM” List

Final list will be announced in Fall 2003 recognizing employers who offer outstanding commuter benefits.

San Francisco (June 11, 2003) - The Bay Area's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition today announced the sign-up period for the second annual list of **The Bay Area Best Workplaces for CommutersSM**. The list spotlights Bay Area employers offering superior commuter benefits to employees, thereby committing to reducing traffic and air pollution and improving health and quality of life for harried commuters.

The coalition is comprised of Bay Area business, transportation, human resource, and environmental organizations and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Last year, the first-ever **Bay Area's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM** list recognized more than 80 Bay Area employers, including Yahoo!, Inc., Stanford University, Amy's Kitchen, and IBM Corporation. Information on participating organizations is available at www.bestworkplacesforcommuters.gov/sanfran or www.bwc.gov/sanfran.

“**The Bay Area Best Workplaces for CommutersSM** list was incredibly popular last year,” said EPA Bay Area program manager Robin Snyder. “By offering commuter benefits, a company with 1,000 employees can lower its parking expenses by more than \$70,000 and save employees \$13,000 in taxes and \$160,000 in gas, parking, and vehicle costs each year. The list is a chance to recognize employers who have shown their commitment to alleviating these problems, saving their employees time and money, while reducing the congestion and pollution caused by so many cars on our roads.”

To sign up by August 29, 2003, organizations can simply enroll online at www.bestworkplacesforcommuters.gov or www.bwc.gov. This Web site also allows employers considering the Best Workplaces for CommutersSM designation to access a Web-based calculator to estimate the financial, environmental, traffic-related, and other benefits of offering commuter benefits.

Employers on the list must offer employees key commuting benefits such as employer provided transit passes, vanpool subsidies, bike commuter facilities, onsite day care, and telework programs. To qualify as one of **The Bay Area Best Workplaces for CommutersSM**, organizations must provide:

continued

The Bay Area's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition

Bay Area Air Quality Management District • Bay Area Council • Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Northern California Human Resources Association • Northern California Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation
RIDES for Bay Area Commuters • Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



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BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
HUMAN RESOURCES
ASSOCIATION



RIDES
FOR BAY AREA COMMUTERS, INC.
800-755-POOL
www.rides.org



Silicon
Valley
Manufacturing
Group



- A central point of contact for information, who actively informs employees of commuter benefits available.
- Access to a regional or employer-provided Guaranteed/Emergency Ride Home program.
- At least one primary commuter benefit, which can include a monthly transit/vanpool pass subsidy, cash in lieu of free parking, or a significant telecommuting program.
- At least three supporting commuter benefits, which can include carpool/vanpool incentives, lockers/showers for bikers or walkers, incentives for living near work, or onsite amenities such as day care or dry cleaning.

About the Best Workplaces for CommutersSM

The Best Workplaces for CommutersSM is a free and voluntary program that recognizes employers nationwide that offer a comprehensive package of commuter benefits. Participating organizations must meet a *National Standard of Excellence* as defined by program criteria. The Best Workplaces for CommutersSM improve employee job satisfaction and save money from reduced payroll taxes.

Employees enjoy reduced stress and delays caused by driving alone to work and save money by using employer-provided commuter benefits and reducing use of personal vehicles.

Visit <www.bestworkplacesforcommuters.gov> or <www.bwc.gov> for more information.

About the Bay Area's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition

The Bay Area's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition, led by EPA, includes the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Bay Area Council, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Northern California Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation, Northern California Human Resources Association, RIDES for Bay Area Commuters Inc., and Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group. The coalition is working to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, cut global warming emissions, and make commuting less stressful and costly for employers and employees.

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